

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 1944
Version: First engrossment

DATE: April 6, 2015

Authors: Hertaus

Subject: Agricultural preserves

Analyst: Steve Hinze (steve.hinze@house.mn)

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd/.

Overview

H.F. 1944 allows a property to be immediately removed from the metropolitan agricultural preserves program upon the death of one of the owners. It also allows cell phone towers to be installed on property within an agricultural preserve in the metro area or in the three counties in Greater Minnesota with an agricultural preserves program.

Section

- 1** **Allowed commercial and industrial operations.** Allows cell towers to be installed on property within an agricultural preserve in Greater Minnesota. *(Note: only three counties in greater Minnesota participate in the agricultural preserves program – Waseca, Winona and Wright.)*
- 2** **Early termination of agricultural preserve.** Allows a property's enrollment in the metropolitan agricultural preserves program to be terminated upon the death of an owner of the property. Provides that when an agricultural preserve is terminated under this provision, the property is subject to additional taxes equal to 50 percent of the current year's taxes. *(Background: under current law, an agricultural preserve can only be terminated 8 years after the owner notifies the city or county of her/his intention to terminate, and there are no additional taxes imposed when the preserve is terminated.)*
- 3** **Allowed commercial and industrial operations.** Allows cell towers to be installed on property within a metropolitan agricultural preserve.